

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

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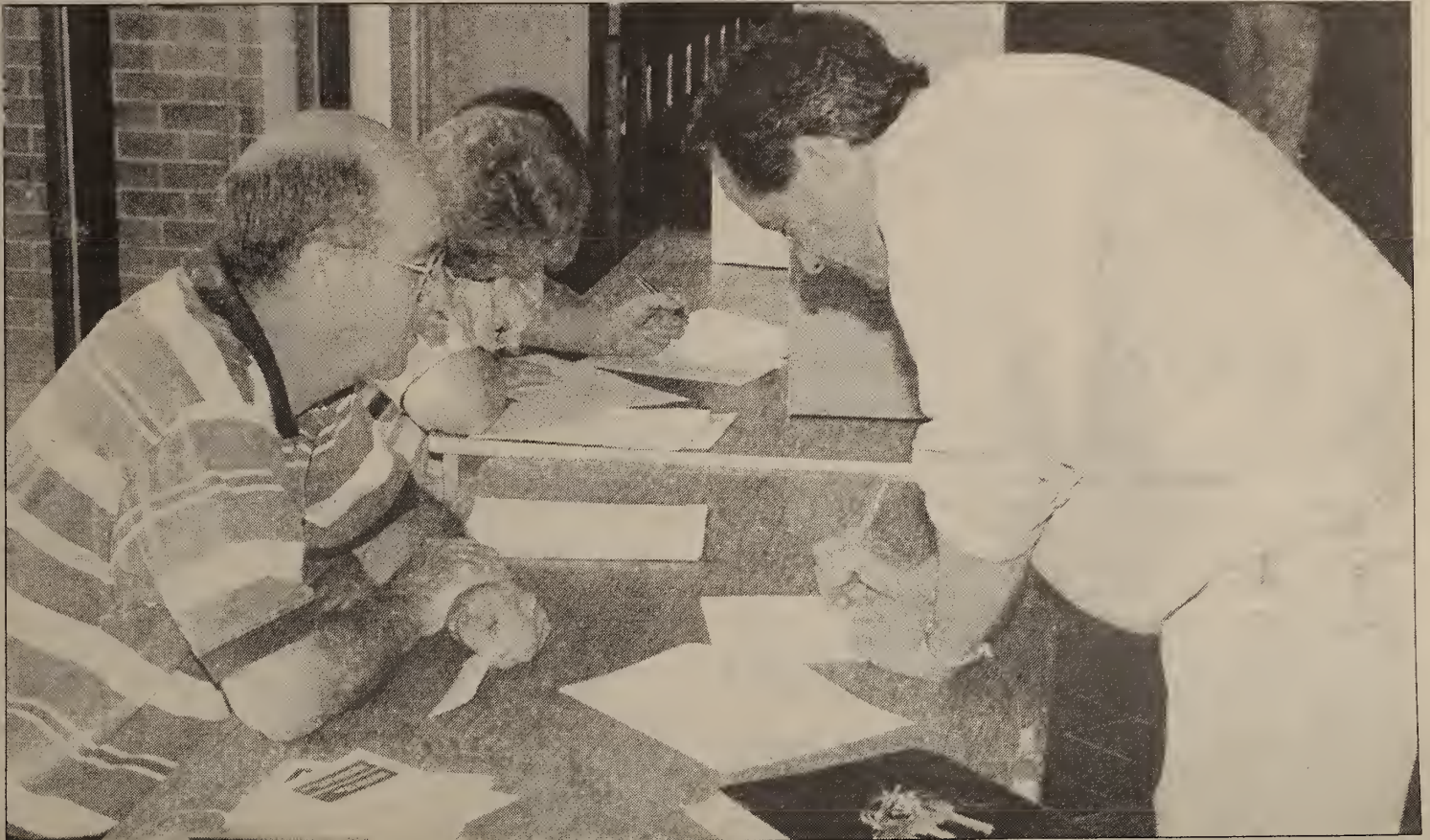
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Sam McElrea (left) watches faculty member Mark Forgeron (right) sign for his ballot at the voting booth set up inside door 3 near the administration office at the Doon campus of Conestoga College. The vote, held May 21, was to determine whether members would authorize the teachers' union to call a strike. (Photo by Michael Hilborn)

Faculty votes for power to strike

Vote results indicate union is serious, says representative

By Michael Hilborn

On May 21, the faculty of Conestoga College voted to give its union bargaining team a mandate to call for a general strike in September if a new agreement is not reached before then.

The vote, which included the faculties of all 25 Ontario community colleges, was passed by a majority of 72 per cent of the professors and instructors across the province. At Conestoga, 80 per cent of the faculty turned out to vote, with 77 per cent supporting the call to walk.

Local union president Walter Boettger said this does not necessarily mean that students will find themselves without classes in September. Instead, Boettger said, it means that the union now has the additional authority to go back to the negotiations from a position of strength.

"We have now indicated to the mediator that we are serious," he said. "This gives the pressure needed to further negotiations."

According to Boettger, the outstanding issues concern the "grandparenting" of existing professors and workload. The question of salaries is not a problem. "This (latest) offer is a positive step," he said. However, the union president said that some of the faculty were not happy with the fact that management had circumvented the process by communicating its latest offer through the mail, rather than by going through the bargaining team.

Conestoga president John Tibbits, who is co-chair of the colleges' bargaining team, said he was not sure what the problem was with the latest offer. He said the issue of job security has been addressed. "We made it very clear that all professors would be grandfathered," he said. "I'm not quite sure if Walter (Boettger) just doesn't understand (the offer) or if it's a deliberate attempt (by the union) to mislead (the faculty)," he said.

Tibbits said he believes that certain people on the union bargaining team may have their own agenda. "It's about power (to close the college)," he said. "That's what it's all about."

Tibbits believes the union's position on classification of faculty is unrealistic in today's market.

"We should have more than just professors and instructors. We should really have five or six different categories. But you're into a union mentality. There is a genuine belief by people like (union president Ted) Montgomery that we all should be paid the same."

Tibbits also said he wondered where the students were in all this. An informal survey indicated that many of the students are not aware of the pending crisis. Of nine nursing students interviewed in the cafeteria, only one, Angie Eskritt, was aware that there was a strike vote being held. Eskritt said she couldn't understand what the problem was. "I don't know what they're striking for," she said. "Is it



Sam McElrea (left) and Dale Cutting (middle) look on as George Woods casts his vote on the teacher strike issue on May 21. (Photo by Amanda Fickling)

just more money or what? I think they make pretty good money."

The last offer presented to the union on May 15 amounted to approximately an 11 per cent wage increase over three years, when increases and upward moves in the

salary grid are considered.

The next step in the process will begin on June 16 when the two sides are scheduled to sit down again and try to come to an agreement. Negotiations will continue over the next three months.

Satellite campus

Waterloo business students win first prize

by Anita Santarossa

Six teams out of 16 went on to the final judging competition for the annual microcomputer software program contest held at Conestoga College's Waterloo campus May 19.

The winning team was announced on May 21 at the display fair based at the Waterloo campus.

First prize team winners were Kristin Everett, Graeme Cullen and Wanda Jimenez of the GroupWare Korner team. They each received \$50 and an award of excellence donated by the Canadian Information Processing Systems (CIPS) organization.

Runners-up were Gwen Bernier, Wei Hwa and Vivian Poon of ACG Services team.

Program co-coordinator Barbara Power said the competition was close among the six teams.

"All teams put a lot of work and time into their projects and all deserve awards for their efforts," said Power.

Jimenez said they learned a lot working in a group.

"In our group everyone was good at one particular thing and it ended up being a good mix."

However, Everett said it was tough getting together at times, but the designated school lab hours were a big help.

The winning group created a database for the K-W Association of Community Living and Opening New Doors, which are two non-profit organizations located in Kitchener. Their program manages volunteer, donation, and ticket draw information.

While developing the system, they all learned one important thing said Jimenez. "Back-up, back-up, back-up!"

"We always kept hard copies of our work just in case we lost any disks."

Jimenez will be spending her work term with the Downtown Business Association, Everett with Manulife Securities, while Cullen continues his pursuit for a job.

All students in the microcomputer software program participate in the practical project competition, said Power.

She said the projects are done for, and in consultation with, local businesses and community groups.

"This gives students a great opportunity to network and gain practical experience."

Power said the program currently has seven outstanding employment opportunities.

"There are more job placements than students this year which is very rare," said Power.

Part-time instructor for the program, Norm Jobes, said students



From left to right: Kristin Everett, Graeme Cullen and Wanda Jimenez, winners of the microcomputer software project competition held at the Waterloo campus May 21, present their user guide.

(Photo by Anita Santarossa)

learn to work with companies and with each other.

"Team work makes it all happen," said Jobes. "The ones that succeed make their teams work."

The award was given by Doug Naftel, treasurer of the Canadian Information Processing Society. The judging panel were all representatives of CIPS.

The society is an organization devoted to the continuation of professional development in technology, said Naftel.

"Students are our future and we try to help and encourage them to be successful and professional."

The society also acknowledges that students invest their time and money into education and tries to

assist them by making employers aware of the talent colleges are producing, said Naftel.

CIPS is currently voting for legislation on the accountability issue in technology, said Naftel.

"Technology is a powerful entity and those involved in creating it should be accountable for their actions," he said.



Scott Granger, left, and Jim Palmer, teachers in the motor vehicle mechanics program, with three of their latest donations: a 1997 Dodge Dakota; a 1997 Ford F150; and a 1997 Chevy Silverado.

(Photo by Lisa Roberts)

Donations aid Guelph students

By Lisa Roberts

Various donations to the motor vehicle mechanics program at the Guelph campus of Conestoga College have greatly assisted the course, according to two of its teachers.

Jim Palmer, an instructor in the mechanics program, said there were about 14 vehicles being used in the automotive shop at the Guelph campus.

Among the vehicles being used are three of the program's recent contributions: a 1997 Ford F150, which was donated by the Ford Motor Company of Canada in April; a 1997 Dodge Dakota, presented by Wellington Motors in Guelph; and a 1997 Chevy Silverado, which was contributed by General Motors in Oshawa.

Harold Halt, training manager

for General Motors, assisted in the donation of the Silverado, said Palmer. The Chevy vehicle is a 4X4 turbo diesel model, and was donated to the Guelph campus in late April.

"Scott Granger was the instigator for the donation of the Ford truck," explained Palmer, "and I instigated the donation of the GM."

Granger, a part-time teacher in the motor vehicle mechanics program, said he was pleased with the contributions.

"The GM is Jim's pride and joy," said Granger. "Mine's the Ford. The Ford was originally used to train people on the assembly line, but then it would get scrapped because it wasn't supposed to be sold to the general public."

Gord Baldwin, a teacher in the

automotive department at Conestoga, instigated the donation of the Dodge Dakota, Granger said. The Dodge truck was presented to the mechanics program in October 1997.

Palmer said he was pleased with the contributions of the vehicles because they provided contemporary technology, including diagnostic studies, which would be practical for his students.

"The vehicles have up-to-date equipment we can train students with," he said. "They come with auto-lock brakes, among other things, and have second generation on-board diagnostics. We use the vehicles for hands-on work where students get fault codes and diagnostic problems. Most students can't afford new cars, therefore the donations are really helpful."

Student guides show college to visitors

By Amanda Fickling

You must be positive, friendly, willing to learn and have an interest in Conestoga College to apply for a tour guide position, said the organizer of the tour guide program.

Carol Pease from the information centre said the college hires enthusiastic students to help people interested in the school and its programs to become more familiar with the premises.

"The guides lead prospective students and their parents around the college and show them the important spots," said Pease.

The security area, the student services centre, and the co-op area are some of the more standard areas that are always pointed out, she said.

"If a future student has a specific interest, like woodworking, we try to get someone from that program to take them on the tour."

Detailed questions are answered by the information centre. If any extra requirements are requested, the information centre tries to accommodate them, said Pease.

"Sometimes we have a specialized tour where the people on the tour can talk to faculty members and co-ordinators of programs."

The tour guides begin working in September once they receive their class schedules, said Pease, so the information centre can try to schedule tours around class hours. A guide may work up to a total of 10 hours per week, she said.

Students who apply to become tour guides must also have applied for OSAP, said Pease, but sometimes the centre makes exceptions. In order for an exception to occur a student must be extremely interested in doing the tours.

The same job-hiring procedures are followed when applying to be a guide as when applying for any other job, said Pease. Students are interviewed, and are expected to have some knowledge of programs offered at the college.

Once hired, the student is taken through orientation and given a tour guide manual, Pease said. There are specific guidelines the student must follow. The maximum number of students the information centre will hire is 15, although they would like to have fewer so that more hours can be accumulated by the employees, said Pease.

So far the centre has had a few applications to fill the positions, although Pease said she would like more students from the technology and health sciences departments to apply.

Pease said she thinks the tour guide program is good because guides are able to give new students a student perspective on everything.



Mary Overton (left) and Karen Wilson go over some of the points in the proposed nurses' bill of rights. Both are Doon faculty members. (Photo by Jeannette Altwegg)

Nurses voice concerns in round table discussion

By Jeannette Altwegg

Conestoga College held a panel discussion on nursing being the key to quality health care, on May 12.

The first panel discussion of its kind, known as the round table, was part of a one-week celebration held May 11 to 17.

The celebration was co-sponsored by Conestoga College and the Waterloo-Wellington chapter of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

"We, as a college wanted to celebrate nursing and the role of nursing in health care," Karen Wilson, one of the eight nurses on the planning committee for the panel discussion, said during an interview.

The intent of the round table was to share what kind of challenges and situations today's nurses were faced with, with particular emphasis being placed on the changing health care scene and the shift from an institutional to a community focus, Wilson said.

"A lot of the conversation, discussion, question and answering was around 'Where are some of the gaps in health care and how are nurses bridging those gaps?'"

Moderator Charlotte Noesgaard, a professor at McMaster University and past president of the association, said about 60 to 70 people attended the round table discussion.

Guest speakers for the panel discussion included Pat Caldwell, Doon nursing program instructor; Louise Carmichael,

palliative care specialist and member of the Victoria Order of Nurses; Christine Henhoeffter, director of nursing at St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener; and Bernice Uebele, a nurse and entrepreneur who owns her own business in Kitchener called Nurses in Touch.

Attendees were invited to share their views on such topics as the impact of current and future health care reforms on nursing careers, how nurses could exercise their political voices and how they could become professionally involved in political activities, and the future of health care and nursing in Canada.

One of the more interesting things that came out of the panel discussion, Wilson said, was that the Ontario Nurses' Association said it is developing a nurses' bill of rights.

Some of the rights mentioned in the bill were the right to provide high quality health care, the right to be heard and consulted on health care issues, the right to be recognized and treated as equals in the health care system, and the right to be advocates for their communities and the people they care for without reprisal.

"Nurses are doing a lot of bridging," Wilson said. "There are clients who are probably compromised because of the cutbacks in health care. Nurses are trying to make that difference of bridging what's happening between the system and them going back home into the community."

Possible layoff scare forces nurses to re-evaluate jobs

By Casey Johnson

After anticipating a possible layoff at Grand River Hospital (former K-W Hospital) in Kitchener, registered nurse Dyan Eybergen began planning for her future by taking the Entrepreneurship in Health Care workshop at Conestoga College's Waterloo campus.

"It has always been my long-term goal to privately council child and adolescent mental health patients and their families," said the Sudbury native, who works in the in-patient psychiatric unit of the hospital. "I thought that this seminar might give me the information to branch out on my own."

Eybergen, who now lives in Woodstock, said the seven-hour workshop gave her important information about the rules and regulations of going into business on her own.

"You have a (nursing) licence to protect and you must also be accountable to the college of nurses," she said. "The seminar helped with information on insurance, etc. as well."

The April 27 one-day seminar, hosted by Mary Ratensperger and Jean Millar of "Bridges to Your Future", consisted of entrepreneurial advice, developing a professional network and business plan, and understanding income tax and legal issues.

Another participant in the seminar was Mary Ann Trainor. Trainor, who graduated from the University of Western Ontario, in London, with her bachelor of science in nursing degree, took the seminar because she wants to enter the workforce on a part-time basis after raising a family of three for 15 years.

"Nursing is changing with government legislation," she said. "Because of budget cuts, nursing is moving more into the communities and out of the hospitals. This seminar put a whole new twist on nursing. It's a great new avenue, meaning independent practice, for people willing to do a little risk taking," she said.

Trainor added that the seminar showed her there were certainly opportunities for people re-entering the workforce.

Although Trainor said she did not want to enter the workforce on a full-time basis right now, she did say when she did go back to work it would probably be in the community and not in a hospital.

Trainor is now taking a 255-hour certificate program through Conestoga as well.

Sharon Haid, a registered practical nurse who graduated from Conestoga College in 1991, originally had a full-time nursing job at a local hospital. After the hospital downsized in 1994, Haid opted to take its offer of a part-time position, instead of being completely laid off.

As far as the seminar is concerned, Haid said she will definitely use the information she received there.

"The seminar was very insightful and very objective," she said. "The instructors, who are registered nurses themselves, gave great step-by-step instructions on how to begin your own business."

Haid, who is also currently

enrolled in a community nursing program for RNs and RPNs at the college, said she has been thinking of branching out on her own since December.

She is looking at starting a small business in the community nursing field.

Mary Carley, the coordinator of the workshop, said she appreciates the feedback that she receives from the workshop because she can then plan for the future.

"It's very important that we (at the college) go with the trends and help maintain and promote nursing practice standards in the profession."

"We need to reflect the national and international trend that nurses play a leading role in filling in the health care gaps through independent practice," she said.

Stating she is very devoted to the promotion of health and well-being, Carley hopes the workshop planted seeds of motivation to enhance careers and contribute to the health of society.



Workshop coordinator Mary Carley is happy her entrepreneurship in health care got exposure. (Photo by Casey Johnson)

Raising awareness

Women's resource group lacks members

By Melanie Spencer

The lack of membership was the focus of the women's resource group's meeting May 19 in the main cafeteria of Conestoga College.

"There's so many people trying to keep their heads above water, they don't have time for anything else," said Sharon Dietz, a journalism faculty member.

Membership is also affected by student and employee interest at the college, said Dietz.

Another factor contributing to insufficient membership is the lack of knowledge about the group, the meeting heard. "In

terms of membership, we're talking about getting the word out more," said Joan Magazine, a student services counsellor.

In an effort to raise awareness, Dietz will write an article for *Communicque* detailing what the women's organization is about.

Other suggestions presented to increase membership included changing the group's name in the hopes of encouraging more students to attend and explaining, each new school year, what the group does.

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of creating a paid position for a student. It would be set up in the form of an honorarium per semester, with the

money coming from the college work program or bursaries, said Magazine.

The student selected would do the leg work, minutes and other tasks for the group. Establishing a paid position was also seen as a way of getting more students involved.

"My hope is that a woman will want to come to the Women's Resource Group," said Magazine.

Other topics discussed were the possibility of putting posters in washrooms and planning for next year.

The next meeting of the Women's Resource Group will be held June 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the main cafeteria.

Read Spoke
Conestoga College's
Weekly Newspaper

Colleges want to grant degrees — the nerve



Anita Santarossa

As a current Conestoga College journalism student and a former University of Waterloo English graduate, I feel the discussion on the relationship between colleges and universities to be an important one. There has been recent, though controversial,

discussion on the establishment of a collective agreement in allowing colleges to grant degrees.

I recently received a letter from my university stating that applications to arts programs have drastically decreased for the perceived reason that a liberal arts education has not adequately prepared individuals for the workplace.

However, the letter's purpose was to try to prove this perception wrong by getting myself (and, I assume, several hundred other grads) to complete a form expressing how valuable our arts degrees were in preparing us for our current work.

So I filled out the general information section, leaving the explanation part blank, since I do not have a job related to my degree.

Now, don't get me wrong; my university degree was certainly not a waste of time, effort or money. It taught me how to think critically, speak eloquently and of course party heartily.

Theory. This is what you learn in university. Words like modality, deconstruction, paralogy, discourse, morpheme (not morphine), prosody and pragmatic, all become part of one's vocabulary (of which I have yet to use in everyday conversation).

Then you learn of names like Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, DeSaussure, Bakhtin, Pearce, Sophocles, Dante, Milton, Locke, Wordsworth and anyone who was of any importance before Elvis or John Lennon.

So after a year of trying to find a job with my English degree, I gave up and decided to go to college. The reason for this decision was twofold: I needed to get practical experience, and since I already had a degree I could get that experience in only one year.

A convenient opportunity, I thought.

If it is so easy for university graduates to get a college diploma, in a limited amount of time, then why must it be so difficult for college graduates to obtain a university degree?

A column by Ann Dowsett Johnston in the May 11 issue of Maclean's Magazine stated that "no other province has been so rigid in protecting the moat around the university fortress as Ontario."

So why shouldn't colleges be allowed to grant their students degrees? It seems to me (at least from my own experience) that college better prepares one for the working world, whether that be in science, technology, or the arts.

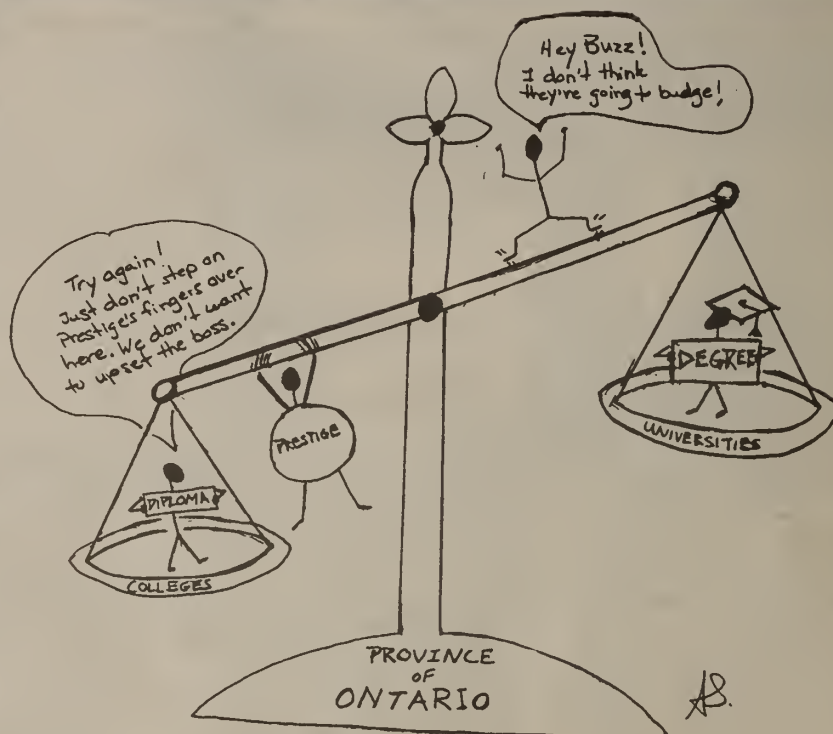
Conestoga College, for one, has some astounding employment rates in many of their programs. Graphic design students enjoy a 99 per cent employment rate after graduation. Microcomputer students are seeing a significant increase in employment opportunities as are many other faculties.

What disturbs me is the narrow-minded snobbery of universities wanting to keep their so-called "above-average status." University of Waterloo president James Downey said in a telephone interview that universities have traditionally been defined by their ability to grant degrees and that it should only be universities that continue to have that right.

What good is a prestigious bachelor of arts degree when you cannot even get a job? It seems like the current trend people are making is toward college education. Why? Because it gets you a job, or at least skills that allow one to be confident in finding a job.

I've been a college student for

The imbalance between colleges and universities



approximately nine months and I have learned skills that I would actually feel confident bringing into any career related to journalism, public relations, or writing.

If there is a way that universities and colleges can work together to provide their students with top quality education and degrees to boot, why not do it?

Education has come a long way from the '60s and '70s, when colleges were

institutions to prepare the blue-collar worker. However, colleges today are providing more and more hands-on education based in business, technology, and design, better preparing students for work so they can contribute to the economy of Canadian society.

There must be a solution where degrees can be granted for both theoretical and practical knowledge without stepping on anyone's integrity or prestige.

The Seinfeld show — much ado about nothing



Lisa Roberts

The supposed comedy show known to fans worldwide as Seinfeld has finally, mercifully, come to a close. The nine-year-long comedy show ran its series finale on May 14, amid much hoopla and several tributes, both in print and in broadcasting.

There were hour-long retrospectives aired until the show's final hours to allow fans to reminisce about their favorite Seinfeld moments.

There were even hourly countdowns on several mainstream FM radio stations, marking the 60-minute intervals until the very last show was to be broadcast.

But something always puzzled me about the popularity of the show. My curiosity

was magnified when I read interviews with cast members, writers and producers, who all admitted that the show was about nothing.

So what on God's green earth was all the fuss about?

I tried in vain to find the humor in this half-hour pitiful excuse for "quality" television. I found myself sitting through its usual litany of complaints about relationships, living habits and day-to-day occurrences in a genuine effort to find out what so many others found fascinating about this television phenomenon.

Suffice it to say, I was repeatedly disappointed and bewildered.

What made the show so special, anyway? Let's look at the main characters to hopefully gain some insight.

First of all, you have your title character, Jerry, who was nothing more than a

neurotic, terminally single male. He had the best living quarters and was the ringleader of his band of eccentric friends.

His best friend, George, was a repressed sex fiend who equally attracted and repulsed women. Oh yeah, he also lived with his parents, despite the fact he was in danger of being met head-on by midlife crisis.

Jerry's best female friend and ex-girlfriend, Elaine, couldn't find a half-decent relationship if her life depended on it, but had no moral qualms with being a serial sleeper on the first date. Gee, she sure is some role model for '90s women.

Jerry's neighbor, Kramer, exuded behavior that leaves me to wonder if he didn't suffer from attention deficit disorder at one point in time, or if he was taking any medication that just wasn't working. Plus, there are only so many amusing ways one can

enter a room.

Last, but not least, we have Newman, the anti-hero of Seinfeld. The only character worth watching, Newman played the foil to Jerry's leading-man status. Needless to say, he made George's depraved character seem angelic.

Maybe I'm alone in this thought, although I severely doubt it, but I just didn't see the point in a weekly reminder about life's little idiosyncracies. Sure, it's nice to relate to someone else's daily quandaries, but it seems far-fetched to compare one's life to that of a fictional television character.

Now that Jerry, Elaine, George, Kramer, and Newman have all been catapulted to rerun heaven, maybe it's time to change the channel and watch more sensible, attention-grabbing, and intellectually stimulating quality programming. Like the Jerry Springer show.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

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Residence undergoes transformation

Student residence now hotel for summer

By Jason Gennings

Halfway through May the balloon went up on the roof of Rodeway Suites and Conestoga College's student residence became a hotel for the summer.

The "hotel" balloon went up to attract business off Highway 401, said Brian Gill, Rodeway Suites general manager.

"It's been effective; we've been keeping track," said Gill, speaking of the balloon, which is illuminated nightly.

This year commemorates the fifth summer Rodeway has been a hotel since it opened for students in September 1993, said Gill.

The hotel has 116 double rooms available and only two students are living there for the summer, said Gill. That leaves the other rooms available under two options, the regular guest option and stripped-down student options.

Anyone can come in as a guest and two adults can have a room for \$64.95. It is just like any other hotel, said Gill, with full service, accessories, and housekeeping.

Student rates are \$15 per day per person, with a roommate. There are no sheets, towels, or other accessories.

This summer, the student plan is less than a dollar a day above what the students pay with roommates during the school year, Gill said.

The second student option, only available during the summer, is to pay \$25 daily and have the double room all to yourself, said Gill.

"In the summer sometimes it is difficult to get a roommate," said Gill, "and that's why we have this option."

Rodeway Suites is owned by Campus Living Centres Inc. and is part of the Choice Hotels International chain, said Gill.

Some other student residences owned by the same parent company are also converted to hotels for the summer, said Gill.

Niagara College's Residence Conference Centre in Welland charges guests \$40 for one night

and \$70 for two nights, said Jan Zylstra, assistant manager of Conestoga's suites. This is for single occupancy with full service and housekeeping.

Rodeway Suites Durham, in Oshawa, also offers summer hotel services for \$49.95, said Zylstra.

The parent company has plans for 1999 to open other residence conference centres in Toronto, London, Oakville, Hamilton, and

King City, said Zylstra.

While not all are part of the Choice hotel line, Campus Living Centres Inc. own all these residence/hotels, said Zylstra. Anyone interested in staying should call 1-887-225-8664.

Conestoga Rodeway is affiliated with organizations such as CAA, the Better Business Bureau, Motor Coach and the Ontario Hotel Motel Association, said Gill.

For the weekend of May 15, Rodeway Suites Conestoga was 75 per cent filled. According to Gill, going into the weekend of May 22 the hotel was going to be full.

"It would be fair to say we are going to be full every weekend," said Gill, "but 90 per cent of our business is on the weekend."

Rodeway is a residence for eight months of the year and that's what the resources are concentrated on,

said Gill.

"I basically run 100 per cent occupancy during the year and unless I raise my residence fees I'm not going to make any more money," said Gill.

Gill said Rodeway is doing OK during the school year anyway, therefore he has never drastically raised residence fees.

"So, when can I make money? I have 100 per cent occupancy I can get to in the summertime too, and that's where we can increase our revenue," said Gill.

Throughout most weekdays the hotel is at about 20 per cent occupancy, Gill said. There is no question that being so far from Kitchener's downtown area hurts business, but being near the 401 helps, said Gill.

There has been some reaction from customers about Rodeway's role as a student residence.

"I get people who know what we've done," said Gill. "They know because they've been coming back every summer from day one, either they don't care or the condition of the rooms is good enough."

According to Gill, one woman questioned Rodeway's role as a hotel when she saw student belongings in windows as they moved out at the end of the semester.

Gill remembers the exchange: "I said, 'Listen, before you leave, why don't you take a look at a room, because I don't want you to leave here thinking that this is a dive, because it's not.' She said, 'Well, it's just; I think. . . and she wasn't giving me the chance to prove to her what product we had to sell. There are definitely people prejudiced against us.'"

Gill said he is proud of the residence and hotel.

"Someone stays in a room for eight months as opposed to overnight, obviously the wear and tear is more," said Gill. "We keep on top of the rooms and the students were really, really good this year, I have got to give them credit."



Rodeway Suites general manager Brian Gill stands outside the residence now turned hotel. The hotel balloon (top photo) is lit up nightly to attract business off Highway 401. (Photos by Jason Gennings)

Youths enjoy summer at Conestoga College

Conestoga offers day camps for kids from the ages of five to 14

By Amanda Fickling

Conestoga College's Doon campus is one place to be this summer for students between the ages of five and 14.

Summer camps are offered at Conestoga College Doon campus from June 29 to September 4, said camp director Marlene Ford.

The youth camps have been going on since 1983. Some kids just keep coming back, she said. The kids like the staff and the way the programs are set up, and parents find the location convenient. The camp has a good reputation because it has been running for so long, said Ford.

"Last year more students attended than ever."

The camp has 10 different sessions, each running two weeks in length, said Ford. Day camps are led by college, university and

high school students. The leaders must have program-planning skills, and previously worked with kids, she said.

Some counsellors have been working with the college camp program for three or four years now. Some were campers themselves and have gone on to become counsellors because they enjoyed it so much, said Ford.

Ford said the camp is properly equipped for any emergency. In each camp session there is at least one person who has cardio pulmonary resuscitation training. There is also a first-aid kit brought for off-campus trips. "We have never had any problems before," she said.

Most activities take place on-campus. However, the odd trip takes the campers off-campus. Once a session the campers go to Moses Springer Pool in Waterloo

for an afternoon, said Ford.

Four other activities around the area are being planned. There will

"Last year more students attended than ever."

Marlene Ford

be one trip to Bingeman Park, one to SportsWorld, possibly one to African Lion Safari, and one to the Science Centre, she said.

"Most activities take place outside."

There are three types of camps offered to students: the summer fun camp; the summer multi-sport camp; and the summer adventure camp.

Ford said the sport camp is for

kids who are interested in sports, but anyone can partake.

Some students choose the sport camp to learn about sports, while others want to build up their self-confidence.

Ford said some students attend the camps all summer. "Some campers just rotate camps for two months," she said.

The students eat lunch in various areas. Some days the campers go down to Harvey's and other days they stay at the recreation centre and eat at the Roost, said Ford. On the first Friday of each session the campers have pizza day, which they pay for themselves. On the last day, hot dogs and hamburgers are done on the BBQ, said Ford.

On the final Thursday of each session an over-night camp-out is held for the students. They get to pitch tents in the fields at Conestoga, she said.

SPOKE

IT'S
GOOD
FOR
YOUR
BRAIN





Michael Lubberts brushes up on his slapshots following the end of a practice game at the recreation centre on May 25.
(Photo by Donna Fierheller)

Condors hopeful beats the heat

By Donna Fierheller

Four times a week, a Conestoga Condors hopeful can be found working up a sweat in the otherwise very cool recreation centre arena at Doon campus.

Michael Lubberts said he hopes to be part of the college's hockey team when he becomes a student in Conestoga's mechanical engineering program in September.

Lubberts, who has been playing hockey for two years, said he enjoys skating at the rink, "where some really good players from the NHL and the Ontario Hockey League can frequently be found practising."

Lubberts is impressed with the speed and power of players such as Jeff Maltby from the Detroit Red Wings, and Steve Rice from the Miami Hurricanes.

"They pound down the ice, from one end to the other, in a couple of seconds," he said. "I guess it's easy if you grew up on skates."

Lubberts said the old-timers' hockey league also play pretty hard, fast games at the arena.

Lubberts works part-time in construction and part-time in advertising, doing community profiles for Netmar, a Kitchener marketing company and owner of the Pennysaver paper.

"I find out who lives in an area, what jobs they do and what their income levels are," Lubberts said.

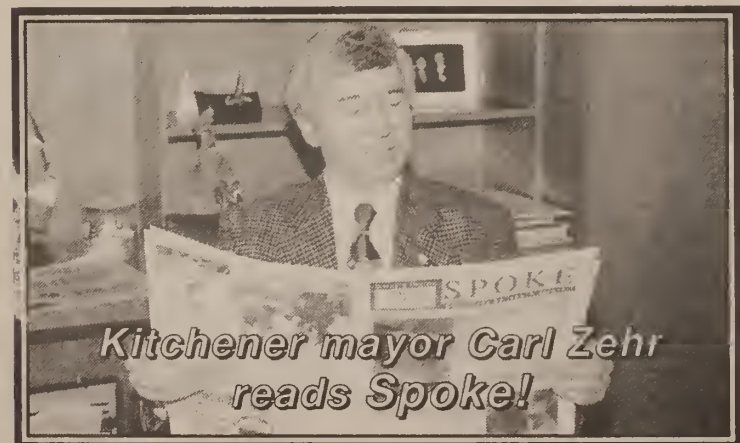
He worked his way up in the company, starting as a paper carrier at the age of 12, delivering the Pennysaver paper.

"I didn't have my own route," he said. "I would offer to do the route for another kid if he didn't want to do it that day. I charged him three times more than he would have made if he did it himself," he laughed.

"I made lots of money."

The hockey lover, who said he won't be at the recreation centre for a while, since he was to head to Ottawa in early June to help build a house, would like to see Canada win at the Olympic games.

"It's Canada's national sport. The regular teams haven't won at the Olympics in 40 years, although the junior teams have done ok."



Kitchener mayor Carl Zehr reads Spoke!

Photocopiers not foolproof

'You can make something fool-proof, but then the world will develop a better fool,' says service technician.

By Donna Fierheller

Although it may not seem that way to users, photocopy machines are fairly dependable, says a technician who services equipment at the Doon campus.

"The machines are pretty durable and don't break down that frequently, when you consider there are easily one million copies made per month on just the nine I service," said Daric Hasen, a service technician from Ikon Office Solutions on Manitou Drive, Kitchener.

He said although computers were designed to reduce the amounts of paper used, hard copy printouts are still needed.

Hasen was busy servicing the photocopier located in the lobby of the ATS engineering complex at the Doon campus on May 25.

Hasen said the nice part of his job is that he gets to meet new people all the time, and he does different things every day.

Hasen was dressed in his new uniform for summer wear — a black short-sleeved shirt and dress pants, although he wasn't wearing his tie that goes with it.

"The reason for a black uniform is because it is impossible not to get dirty from the toner used in the machines," he said.

Hasen said the company's contract with the college covers the cost of that toner, as well as parts and labor. It does not cover the cost of vandalism.

"Abuse isn't covered by the contract," he said. "That comes out of the college's pocket, and is part of what contributes to an increase in administrative costs and student tuitions."



Daric Hasen, from Ikon Office Solutions, Kitchener, services the photocopier in the ATS Engineering complex on May 25.
(Photo by Jeannette Altwegg)

He repaired the photocopier that someone smashed last December while it was located outside room 2A19.

That machine was not college property, but was leased to the Doon Student Association, who claimed the cost to fix the copier from its insurance company.

The glass screen controlling the number of copies, paper size and other operations was broken, which cost \$1,350 to repair. Within the next month, it was

vandalized again, so the copier was moved to a heavier-trafficked location considered more secure.

Hasen said copiers are designed to be as foolproof as possible so all you have to do is push a button, but they sometimes won't work. He said he has seen people kick a machine if it doesn't work.

"You can make something foolproof, but then the world will develop a better fool," he said.



The inner workings of a photocopier are too complex to be corrected by a kick, which Daric Hasen said he has seen people doing when a copier fails to respond.
(Photo by Donna Fierheller)

Yuk Yuk's comedy club a Canadian success



Phil (-er-up) Knapp, Yuk Yuk's bartender.

Atmosphere good for stress

By Casey Johnson

It was Friday night. The room was smokey and the lights were dim. Across the slim rectangular room, a small corner stage was lit up.

I ordered a glass of wine and sat down somewhere mid-bar. Phil (-er-up) Knapp was my bartender. With a keen smile he placed my glass down and went about his business. Most of the crowd was already seated. The evening was about to begin.

As the sound of applause rang through the halls of Yuk Yuk's, at the Clarion Inn at 1333 Weber Street E., in Kitchener, Ont., I gave my undivided attention to the man on stage.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was a charming gentleman known only as "Jocko".

This stand-up comedian and Montreal native had an air of natural talent. This was confirmed a short while into the evening when the dreaded proverbial hecklers decided to rear their ugly heads. Jocko handled them with ease, style and grace.

Jocko, who evidently wants to rule the world, discovered he could make people laugh in Grade 7.

"I kept telling this girl jokes and she just kept on laughing," he said. "I guess it continued from there, and I had the marks to prove it."

Another natural talent present

was Gavin Stephens. This straight-out-of-high-school newcomer took second place at the 2nd Annual Toronto Comedy Festival this year, and I found out why. Stephens' comedic performance was natural and relaxed. It seems that this up-and-coming comic has that "je ne sais pas" that it takes to succeed in the industry.

You may catch this comedian this year on CBC's Jonovision. Comedy Now on CTV has also shown interest, he said.

Stephens' influences included, George Carlin, Chris Rock, Richard Prior and the late Sam Kinison.

The comedic line-up for the night consisted of four comics and MC, Jocko.

All seemed to be running smoothly until the third act. Without too much elaboration, let's just say that in life a little rain must fall, or maybe a little hail. I would have preferred to be knocked on the head by flailing ice cubes than endure another 10 minutes of Russell Roy's act.

It seemed that Roy was suffering as well. Let's hope that he was just having a bad night.

Oh well, any set backs were quickly compensated with the grand finale. The headliner was Jay Sankey.

This 30-something comic killed me. He is the biggest kid I've ever seen, and he appeared to really

enjoy all the attention. But, he deserves it. I found myself at home the next day looking for one of his acts on the Comedy Network just to see more.

Doing stand-up for about eight years now, Sankey graduated from the University of Toronto in 1985. He's played Vegas and performed at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal in 1994 and 1996.

You can see some of Sankey's cartoon shorts, that air daily, on the Comedy Network.

Describing Sankey proves a bit difficult. Let's just say that he's MacCauley Culkin all grown up. He has the looks, the talent and the natural innocence to pull off his routine without a hitch — although I'd wager on the innocence.

I highly recommend that anyone interested in a great comedic performance, seek out Jay Sankey. You won't be disappointed.

Overall, the evening was a success. The prices to get in to Yuk Yuk's range from \$7 on Thursdays, to \$10 on Fridays and \$12 on Saturdays, a reasonable fee for what you are offered.

A beer will cost you \$3.50 and the same for a shot. The bar will hold 180 people and the doors open at 7:30 p.m. or 8 p.m. depending on the night.

If a good laugh is what you need to alleviate some stress, call Yuk Yuk's at 893-5233 and tell Tyler I sent you. He'll love that.



Newcomer Gavin Stephens performs Friday, May 22.

(Photos by Casey Johnson)



Comedian Jay Sankey.



Jay Sankey performs at Yuk Yuk's Friday, May 22.

Music News

Extreme vocalist renews Van Halen

Ned Bekavac

Now led by its third singer, ex-Extreme front-man Gary Cherone, the mighty Van Halen rolled through Cleveland and Detroit on the Victoria Day weekend as part of their eight-leg U.S. mini-tour.

The third time is a charm indeed. By now everyone is familiar with the ugly Van Halen soap opera; David Lee Roth quits in 1984 to pursue a solo career. The irreplaceable Roth is replaced by Sammy Hagar, who leads the band to new levels of popularity.

Twelve years and four multi-platinum albums later, Hagar is dismissed or quits, depending on which side is telling the story, and is replaced by Roth, who mistakenly believes his return is permanent. After recording two new tracks for a greatest-hits compilation, Roth is out; the band hires Gary Cherone as its new singer.

Though their first release with Cherone, *III*, is the bands most diverse and challenging yet, it has received but lukewarm response from both critics and fans. Yet judging from their Cleveland and Detroit performances, the band sounds better than ever.

Halen steam-rolled through a

blistering two-hour set that treated the Gund Arena and Palace of Auburn Hills crowds to the best of the band's three eras.

Doubts as to whether Cherone could carry the Van Halen classics were quickly dismissed as the opening lines of *Unchained* were belted out with precision and conviction.

Though the band showcased much of its new material, including *One I Want*, *Without You*, the epic *Year to the Day*, which was punctuated by Edward Van Halen's patented 15-minute solo, and its latest single *Fire In The Hole*, the band best shone when delivering its pre-Hagar catalogue.

Because Hagar objected to performing most of the Roth-era hits, *Romeo Delight*, *Mean Streets*, *Feel Your Love Tonight* and *Dance the Night Away* sounded as fresh as ever. Cherone even managed to breath new life into the oft-played *Jump*, *Panama* and *Ain't Talkin' Bout Love*.

Guitarist Edward Van Halen has always been the mastermind of the band, and there was no doubt who the fans were there for. Chants of "EDDIE! EDDIE!" rang through both arenas, and many of his solos were virtually drowned out by the crowd's roars.

Yet, Van Halen's third incarnation seems much more than the Eddie Van Halen Show.

New vocalist Gary Cherone, who was attired more like a Gentlemen's Quarterly model than a singer, managed to win the crowd over with both his vocal capabilities and his Freddie Mercury-like enthusiasm and swagger.

What separated these shows from Van Halen versions past was the band's aggressiveness, they have never sounded tighter. The Gund Arena crowd was treated to a rare sight as Eddie played acoustic guitar in the gorgeous *Josephina*. At the Palace, *Josephina* was substituted with *How Many Say I*, a chilling duet that features Eddie on lead vocals and piano.

Though Cherone's vocals were somewhat strained during the Hagar era hit *Dreams*, he handled other post-1984 tracks with little effort and great success.

The major post-Roth complaint is that the band wrote far too many ballads.

With Cherone, though, the band is finally moving forward. The lyrics to *One I Want* ring "A good man, he's hard to find." In Cherone, it appears the Van Halen juggernaut has.

Movie Review

Something scaly this way comes

By Jeannette Altwegg

TriStar Picture's \$140-million resurrection of the Japanese cult hit, *Godzilla*, is definitely not for the faint of heart.

The movie officially opened May 20th on 7,363 screens, more than any other film in Hollywood history.

Being not only one gigantic mother of a monster, this lizard is alert, agile, and able to reproduce.

Matthew Broderick, of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* fame, stars as Nick "the worm guy" Tatopolous, an American scientist who's become famous for his studies of worms in Chernobyl. He ends up helping the authorities track down the monster before it completely destroys all of New York City.

Broderick learns that the lizard is born pregnant. This makes for an intresting debate between him and the authorities who seem to be more interested in killing the beast rather than looking for any young it may have already produced.

French actor Jean Reno (*The Professional*) plays Philippe Roche, leader of the French secret service who are hot on the trail of the beast.

Reno's griping about American

coffee becomes one of the highlights in this movie.

Other actors to watch for are Hank Azaria (*Grosse Pointe Blank*) as Animal, the cameraman with a deathwish, and Harry Shearer, known to all as Mr. Burns, Smithers, or Ned Flanders on *The Simpsons*.

This movie has it all, mystery, romance, comedy and action. There is the beast destroying New York City, while Broderick tries to find out whether he wants to forgive his ex-high school sweetheart for dumping him eight years ago.

One of my favorite parts is when someone asks Broderick after a pretty harrowing encounter with the beast, "Did you get close?" and he calmly responds "Pretty close."

Though some of the scenes may be reminiscent of *Jurassic Park*, director Roland Emmeric (*Independence Day*) does an amazing job of scaring movie-goers out of their wits.

Definitely Oscar material for its amazing technological effects and cinematography, *Godzilla* delivers more than just scares, it eradicates all competition.

This one's big.

Rating-☆☆☆

Movie Review

Deep Impact leaves shallow impression

By Michael Hilborn

Deep Impact, the latest offering from Paramount Pictures is an ambitious attempt to confront a thoughtful issue. Unfortunately, its reach exceeds its grasp.

The premise of the film is a rogue comet that is discovered by a professional astronomer and a young high school student. When the powers that be discover that it is on a collision course with Earth, a desperate plan is developed to destroy or divert it from its course. The experts have determined that the comet has sufficient mass and kinetic energy to constitute an extinction-level event. So far, so good.

The biggest problem with the film is that director Mimi Leder and producer Richard Zanuck were unable to resist the temptation to take an intelligent and thoughtful idea and dumb it down for the benefit of the one cretin in the audience who might be incapable of grasping the blatantly obvious.

The otherwise interesting plot is cluttered with the usual assortment of dysfunctional families, alco-

holics and philandering spouses, whose predictable dilemmas occupy the bulk of the two hours that the movie takes to become interesting.

The cast consists of a credible collection of Hollywood troopers who struggle valiantly to make this turkey fly.

Tea Leoni (Mrs. David Duchovny) plays a media weasel who thinks she is investigating another Washington sex scandal until she stumbles onto the story of the century. You may recall that it was she who convinced hubby David to pull his popular T.V. series, *The X-Files*, out of Vancouver so that he could be closer to home. Fear not, gentle reader. Leoni pays dearly for her anti-Canadianism. In fact, most of the characters wind up dead, and that's a good thing.

Bruce Weitz (*Hill Street Blues*) plays her boss and Vanessa Redgrave plays her alcoholic mother. Robert Duvall plays an over-the-hill astronaut who is called out of retirement to lead a desperate mission to save the world. He would have been better off staying on the beach and getting drunk.

The one bright light in the cast is Morgan Freeman (*Driving Miss Daisy*) who plays the president of the United States, but even he cannot escape the banality of the script.

The real star of this show is the special effects director. Even here there are some continuity problems. Didn't those high-priced NASA consultants ever explain to the producers that the tail of a comet always flows away from the sun, regardless of the direction of the comet's motion? In every sequence, the comet's tail was shown to be flowing behind like the vapor contrail of an aircraft.

To be sure, the final sequences are quite spectacular, but even the gratification of seeing New York City wiped out by a 1,000 foot-high tsunami is scarce reward for sitting through over two hours of drivel. Essentially, if you have seen the previews, you have seen all the movie really has to offer.

If you really want to see the film, you probably should do so at the theatre, since it probably won't translate well to the small screen.

Rating-☆☆

Movie Rating system for the week:

- ☆☆☆☆ Rob a bank to see this in the theatre
- ☆☆☆ Wait for half-price Tuesdays
- ☆☆ Wait for video
- ☆ Wait for something better

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Exercise your mind

Corey Hamilton of Plattsville, second-year management studies student at Doon, combines two activities in one on a Stairmaster at the recreation centre on May 25.

(Photo by Donna Fierheller)